

From: Robert Gardner
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/1/02 9:36am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern

I believe that the proposed settlement should be accepted for the common good of USA & the world in general.

The continued uncertainties around Windows creates a depressed marketplace, full of apprehension, tightened purse-strings.

Additionally it makes the US look foolish when the Appeals court overturned a decision, which granted Microsoft the right to integrate the Web Browser into the Operating System.

What the SUN Microsystems, AOL/Netscape & affiliated companies complain most about is that Microsoft has produced products that integrate well together.

SUN has its StarOffice, but no one seriously accepts it, as it offers little to build a business system from. There is scant integration between StarOffice and other software applications produced by independant software vendors.

Continued poor integration of open-source software will damage consumer confidence by offering too many options, that most people do not understand the reasons why they should choose one over the other. This is why the Open Source community would welcome Microsoft Office to the Linux operating systems. From what I understand the latest version of MS OFFICE for MacOS10, would take little to port to the Linux operating systems.

It should be pointed out that other computer related companies have violated fair trading practices in a much greater way, for example:

1)SUN also offered its Solaris operating system for free, but after signing up for it, I then found I was to be charged \$75 (US) for media. What a blatant misrepresentation!

2) Apple allowed, and openly greeted other companies who were to produce clones of their Mac's. But when it was evident that Apples share of the overall computer market was not increasing, they then withheld their operating system from the clone builders.

3) When the Mac OS was withheld, the clone builders started offering G4 upgrades for G3 machines, but then Apple changed the BIOS routine so that these upgrade cards would not function.

In closing, I hope you agree that in the interests of the world economy, particularly after September 11, that this proposal must be accepted.

Sincerely Yours
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Australia